

# Philosophy 3

Critical Thinking

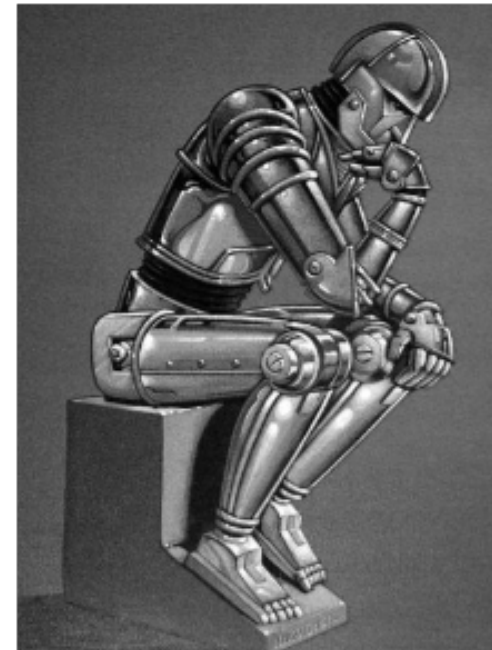
Winter 2009

UCSB

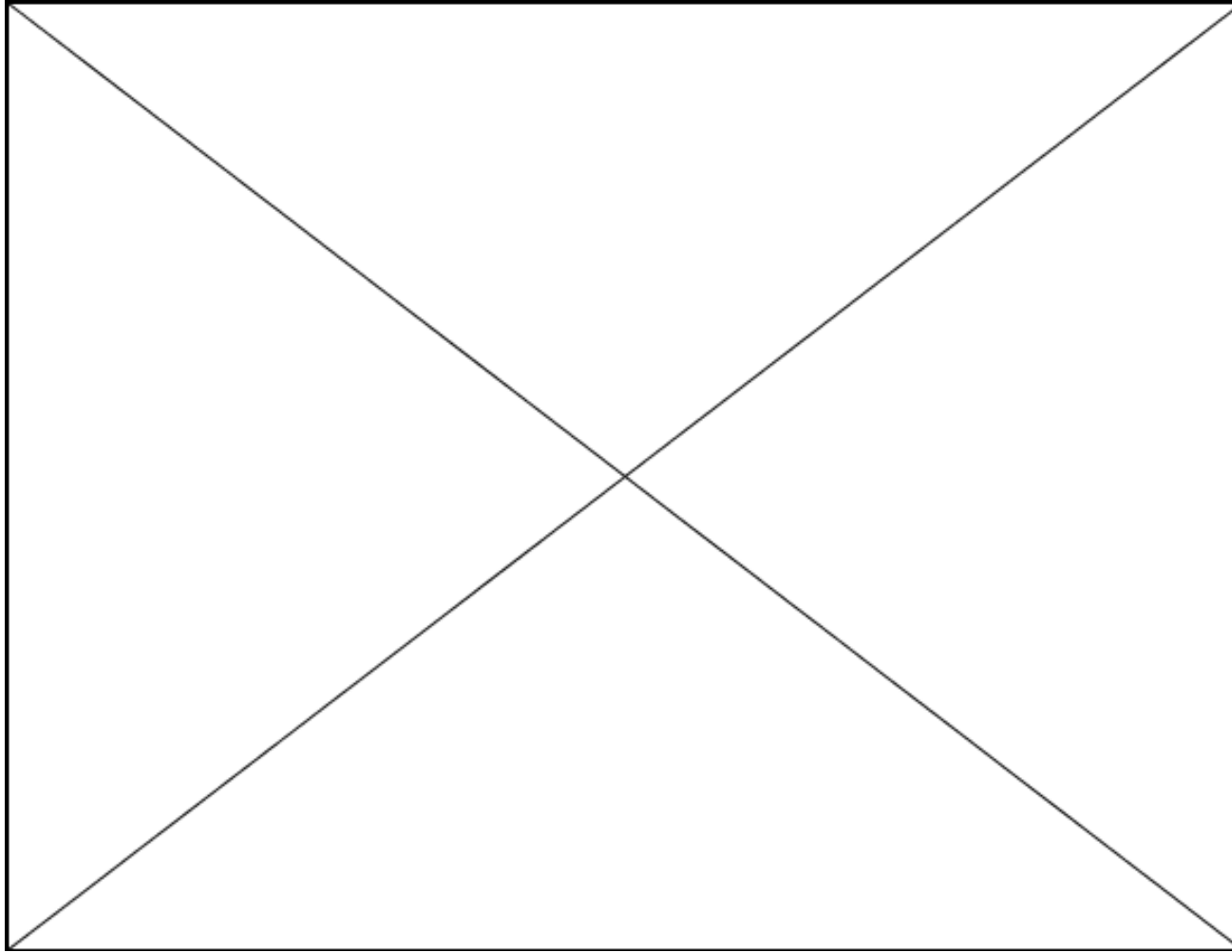
# what is it?

Critical thinking is the study of reasoning and argumentation.

In particular, critical thinking is concerned with how to sort good reasoning from bad reasoning.



bad reasoning is rampant!



so is good reasoning

Susie wants some toast  
but can't find the jelly. She  
thinks to herself:

Either the jelly is in the  
fridge or it is in the  
cupboard. The jelly is not  
in the fridge, so it must be  
in the cupboard.



# What is Logic?

Logic is not subjective, arbitrary, or culturally-relative.

Logic is . . .

*the study of methods for evaluating whether the premises of an argument adequately support its conclusion.*

# what is an argument?

When people think about arguments they tend to have in mind something like a heated dispute.

This is not the technical notion you find when studying logic.

Consider:

JoeBob: Linkin Park is the best band to come out of the 90s.

Slim: Nah man you're crazy, Tool is easily the best.

JoeBob: Nuh-uh, shut up you're wrong.

Slim: What are you going to do about it?

...

An argument is a set of statements where some of the statements, called the *premises* , are intended to support another, called the *conclusion* .

# Homework #1

## Due Monday 4/06

- 1.1 - A: 2, 13, 24, 28 // B: Even // C: 1, 5, 8, 13 // D: 1, 4, 9, 14 (p10)
- 1.2 - A: 1, 4, 10, 11, 24, 29 // B: 1, 3, 6, 15 // C: 5, 7, 12, 13 // D: 2, 5, 11, 12 (p 28)
- 1.3 - A: 1, 8, 12, 15, 18 // B: 2, 4, 8, 11, 17 (p 47)